

A

REVIEW

OF THE

Affairs of *FRANCE*:

With Observations on TRANSACTIONS at Home.

Thursday, June 21. 1705.

I Have attempted to prove, That in our Peace at Home consists our Reputation among our Confederates Abroad. I desire to go on to make it plain, that if we fall out among our selves, it must of course Injure the whole Confederacy.

England is allow'd to be the Greatest Article, or at least the greatest but one in the Confederacy.

The Emperor, *that is*, Consider'd as Emperor and Empire, is generally call'd, The Head of the Confederacy; and indeed were the *German* Power Exerted to its due Extent, *so be it*.

But see the Power of Division! Interest, Parties, and Private Diffention, have so Divided the Empire, that we all see what a mean Figure it has made in this War; and the *English* Troops, as well as *English* Generals, have been forc'd to set their Hands to keep the Imperial Crown in its right place.

And all for want of Peace at Home, all for want of Peace and Union; and I would commend the Example to the *English* Na-

tion — *What Use have the French made of the Breaches, Strife, and Want of Peace in the Empire! Mark it well, Gentlemen, How has Bavaria on one side, and Hungaria on another, thrown the Austrian Greainest, that once Threatned Europe with Universal Monarchy, into such State Convulsions, as without Foreign Assistance it had been quite Dissolved; and why should not the same thing happen to us? Like Causes, produce like Effects in all Ages of the World, and in all Nations; if we fall out among one another, Quarrel and Divide, the French Fools are all Dead. Gentlemen, the very same Advantage, or much worse, will be made of us, the French Politicians know too well their own Interest, to let slip the Opportunity; we must not Expect better Success than our Neighbours; our War will be their Peace; our Sorrow their Joy, our Loss their Gain; It must be so, and can be no otherwise.*

But to return to the Confederacy, for it has been said in Defence of the Tacking Affair, it could have done no Damage to the Confederates

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I did not purpose to have rak'd any more in that Dunghil, nor to have opened the Wound again ; nor shall I say any more than what requires to make out the Assertion I am upon.

I venture to say, and believe I shall make it good, That if we preserve not our Peace, we cannot preserve the Confederacy. As to the Injury the Tacking had done the Confederacy, I lay it upon this, That had the Commons Pass'd it, the Lords having Resolv'd and Declar'd against it, as an Invasion of their Privileges——The Two Houses must have fallen into very Unhappy Debates, the Consequences of which, I will not so much as offer at ; but this is very plain, The Money-Bill must have drop'd, the Supplies have been Delay'd, and consequently our Preparations Retarded.

Now if the *English*, as Confederates, agree to furnish such Quota's, and to appear in the Field with such Forces, or at the Rendezvous with such Ships, and when the Season for Action comes, we are not ready ; will not this, not only Injure the Confederacy, but give a Blow to the *English* Reputation, as a Nation so uncertain in their Appointments, and so little Master of their own Appointments, that they are no way to be Depended upon.

Let any Man cast his Eyes to the *Moselle*, the *English* General, and the Troops entertain'd in *English* Pay, are the Life, Soul, and Superior part of the Army now Facing the *French* there ; by our Account the *Armies* got together there about the 25th of *May*, our *Stile*, and we think this ought to be call'd Dispatch too.

Now as the *French* there, are counted late, when they are not ready before us, as now they were not, let any Man Calculate two Things for me, and this Question will presently be Answer'd.

1. The Land-Tax being pass'd in its Time, and receiving no Obstruction, with using the Utmost Diligence, our Army got into the Field by the 25th of *May* ; if the Occasional Bill had been Tack'd to it, and the Lords had Rejected it, and consequently both had been lost, How long would that Accident probably have Retarded the Bill, and by Consequence the Army ?

2. Had our Army not been ready to take the Field so soon, by a Month or six Weeks, as the Enemy, What in Reason, might have been the Consequence ? Computations are all Guess Work, Political Arithmetick has been nevertheless, tho' wholly Conjectural, accounted very significant ; let me be allow'd a new Term, and make a brief Essay at *Military Arithmetick*.

I presume all Men will allow, That had the Lords Rejected the Land-Tax Bill, because Loaded with a Tack'd Clause, as they were bound by their own Order to do, the House must have been Prorog'd, or Dissolv'd, or your Land-Tax had been lost.

Now suppose the first——For as to the last, we all know, it must have been at least Forty Days, before they could have met again ; but had it been the first of these, these Contingencies would have followed.

1. The Bill must have been brought in again, and have run through all the Formalities of the House of Commons again ; Committees of the whole House must have sat upon it ; the Readings and Preparations must have been wondrous Swift and Unusually so, not to have taken up a Fortnights Time.

2. At the End of this, what Assurance, or indeed, what Probability could there be that the Tenacious Party, would not have Renew'd the Case, and Insisted upon it ; or if in the Attempt, they had at last been prevail'd upon to quit it, a Fortnight more is so soon lost in Conferences, free Conferences, and Debates between the Houses, that we must have allowed Great Dispatch, if a Month was not thus lost, besides the Uncertainty of its miscarrying a second time, which ending in a Dissolution at last, would certainly have lost the Summer.

If then a Months time lost, be a modest Computation, we are next to Examine what might the *French* have done in that Month, having the Superiority of Forces in *Flanders*, on the *Moselle*, and on the *Rhine* ?——Or rather, What might they not have done in that Time ?

What should have hinder'd the *Mareschal Villars*, a Daring, and hitherto a Fortunate General, from Retaking the last Summer's Acqui-

Acquisitions, and Beating you out of *Treves* *sal*, that we are prepar'd, and as soon in the Field as our Enemies, which in the other Case had been impossible.

What should have hindred the Dukes of *Villeroi* and *Bavaria*, in *Flanders*, retaking *Huy*, *Liege*, and *Limbourg*, and Endangering the Recovery of *Spanish Guelderland*.

Thus one Months Retarding our Affairs in Parliament, and consequently the Supplies, had of course kept our Army a Month out of the Field; and the *French*, according to their wonted Custom, might have cut you out Work enough for the whole Campaign, and putting themselves wholly on the Defensive, stood still the rest of the Summer, and look at you.

If it may be said, The Credit of the Exchequer could have borrowed Money enough to have prevented these Things. I Answer.

'Tis true, the Credit of the Exchequer, by an Exquisite Management, Punctual and Honourable Compliance, is rais'd to an Unexpected Height, and times of Peace have very rarely, if ever, match'd it. But as this Credit depends upon Parliamentary Funds, which have always been setled to Discharge the Needful Anticipations, all those Advances which are now made on this Credit, have their Dependance there too; and if once a Doubt appears, Whether there shall be a Fund or no, if an Angel from Heaven had been High-Treasurer, he could have done no more. Credit falls as Naturally, when Funds are stop'd, as the Sea becomes Calm, when the Winds cease to Blow.

We all Crowd my Lord Treasurer with Money on the Credit of a Land-Tax, because for Fifteen Years it has never fail'd; but if once it should admit of a Question, Whether there would be a Land-Tax, or no? It would immediately be less a Question, Whether any Money would be advanc'd, or no? — And therefore they that think there would come in Money upon the Credit of Parliament Funds, when once the Houses so Differ'd as to make those Funds uncertain, must run too fast in their Calculation.

Upon this Tacking Clause depended therefore the whole Success of the present Campaign, which tho' none of us can yet Determine how it will Issue, yet this Part we have obtain'd, by throwing out the Propo-

sal, that we are prepar'd, and as soon in the Field as our Enemies, which in the other Case had been impossible.

Had all these Misfortunes happen'd by the Uncertainty, Disappointment, and Divisions of the *English* Nation, would it not have been as Natural as one and two make three, to say that this would sink the Reputation of *England* among the Confederates, and that they would soon come to be look'd upon as a People not to be Depend'd upon.

The Consequences of this, if I may guess by what has been in the like Cases, and by what the Course of things Directs is, that on the least Advantage gain'd by the Enemy, the Princes of the Confederates most Exposed, would one by one make their Peace without you, and come in to the Enemy, and in their Turns be against you, till at last the Confederacy it self must Dissolve, and *Europe* submit to Universal Monarchy.

Then comes our Wooden Walls in Play, and then we must try if we are able to beat all the World both in War and Trade, and Answer that Wise Question — *What did we ever get by Confederacies?* Things I have by me in Print, by a Wonderful Stickler against Standing Armies, and yet not the Author that once thought himself pointed at in the Quotation, whose Book, I again tell him, I never saw, nor heard of.

If these were likely to be the Consequences of the Tacking, so, Gentlemen, they will be of any other Fatal Division; for every Step we take to delay our Publick Matters, gives all the Advantages to the Enemy.

What need have we then to Unite! How does Peace at Home portend Victory Abroad? How, on the contrary, does our Breaches amongst our selves, Threaten us with Foreign Inundations, and Overthrow all the Probabilities that the Publick Affairs seem to have.


Whether we look at Home therefore, or whether we look Abroad, all things Concur to Invite us to Peace; if we would not be quite Ruin'd, Over run, and Destroy'd; and if, which is still worse, we would not set our own Hands to our Mischiefs, and Invite our Enemies to take all the Advantages of us their Hearts can wish.

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